

Support
HB 705 – Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom
House Health & Government Operations Committee
February 21, 2023

Dear Honorable Chair Peña-Melnyk:

In the early 1990s, I had completed a second B.S. degree at the University of Maryland in elementary education and was early in my career as a 4th-grade teacher. My husband and I lived in a small house in Silver Spring with our two young children. My birth control failed, and we chose to end the pregnancy because I would not have been able to work at my dream job and also be able to give a third child the kind of attention I gave – and wanted to give – to the first two.

I want all families and all people who can become pregnant to be able to exercise their right to bodily autonomy the way I was able to do – including those who live in nearby states where legislators have limited those choices. Establishing reproductive freedom as a fundamental constitutional right in Maryland sends a clear message that we value all our citizens.

Thank you for your time. I urge a favorable vote on HB 705.

Most sincerely,
Barbara Francisco
Silver Spring, MD 20901